



WATER TESTING PROCEDURE FOR ALL WAUKESHA COUNTY PARKS BEACHES

PARKS SYSTEM DIVISION

1. Water samples are taken Sunday during peak use (@ 3:00 p.m.) in sterile bottles provided by the Waukesha County Environmental Health Division. Fox Brook and Menomonee Parks will also take an additional sample on Tuesday during peak use (@3:00 p.m.)
2. Samples are collected by the Head or Assistant Head Lifeguard.
3. Samples are taken in shallow water by entering the water knee deep and dipping the bottle into the water in an arc motion - - taking sample 6-12" below the surface of the water. Try to avoid kicking up bottom material. Samples taken in deep water should be taken 6-12" below the surface. Detailed sampling procedures are outlined on the attached sheet.
4. Two samples at each beach location are taken from the designated points indicated on the attached beach jump charts (maps).
5. Samples should be appropriately labeled with a number corresponding to the numbered spot where water sample was taken.
6. Samples are to be kept cold – in a refrigerator overnight and then Park Foremen add ice or a cold pack for transport to lab.
7. On Monday, samples are taken to the Parks Program Specialist (Room 230) by the Park Foreman and then to the lab at the Waukesha County Environmental Health Division no later than 10:00 a.m. Fox Brook and Menomonee Parks will also transport the second weekly samples into the office on Wednesday mornings before 10:00 a.m.
8. Samples will also be taken within a minimum of 12 hours and a maximum of 24 hours AFTER a heavy rainfall event (determined by ½ inch of rain received in rain gauge at park).
9. Water testing procedure and weekly results will be posted for the public at each beach location, as well as on the Park System website.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

1. Conducts tests on the collected water sample to determine the amount of E.coli present.
2. Verbal results of the tests will be given the day following the sample drop-off at approximately 1:00 p.m. (24 to 26 hours after sample set up).
3. Written results of the tests will be emailed by late afternoon the day following the sample drop-off.
4. If excessive counts are obtained, the Park Program Specialist will be notified by the Environmental Health Division so that additional samples can be immediately obtained.

PROCEDURE TO DETERMINE BEACH CLOSING

1. The Environmental Health Division will notify the Parks Program Specialist, who will in turn notify the Park System Manager, of excessive beach counts and closing status.
2. Beaches will be closed and appropriate signage posted at specific beach location when:
 - a. At least one of the two E.coli counts is 1000 or greater. Additional samples will be taken immediately and the beach will reopen only when two consecutive days have counts below 235.
 - b. If both samples from the same beach location have E.coli counts over 235. Additional samples will be taken immediately and the beach will reopen only when two consecutive days have counts below 235.
 - c. The beach will remain open if just one of the two samples has E.coli counts over 235. Additional samples are taken immediately. If counts are again over 235, the beach will be closed and additional samples will be taken repeatedly until counts below 235 appear. If counts are not over 235 in the second sample, the beach will remain open and normal sampling procedures will resume.

Waukesha County Environmental Health Division
Waukesha County Parks Division

262- 896-8300
262- 548-7801

* Revised June 2003